

VOTE BARISAN FOR STABILITY: MAHATHIR

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SIBU, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad asked Sarawakians to vote in the Barisan Nasional to ensure continued stability and development in the State.

Dr Mahathir said a change of Government in mid-stream would create uncertainty and if such a precedent was set, it would happen again.

Speaking to about 1,500 people at Matu, near here, Dr Mahathir said the people would eventually suffer because of this instability.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir avoided touching on the personalities involved in the election.

However, he referred to the two main issues being

used by the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak and Permas.

The two parties have said that while they supported the Barisan, they were against the leadership of Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Taib Mahmud.

Both parties also said that the Dayaks had been left out of the mainstream of the Government under Datuk Patinggi Taib.

Dr Mahathir said that if component parties were not happy with a certain leader, they should meet and decide who should rule and what posts should be given to whom.

"If the majority feel that the Government should be changed, they should do it

through proper channels and not inconvenience the people.

"This is not what is happening now. If a precedent of changing a Government in mid-stream is done once, it will recur and will impede Sarawak's progress," he said.

Dr Mahathir said, "I believe the people of Sarawak support the Barisan and its principles. All ethnic groups are represented in the Barisan.

"We must remember that we cannot champion only one race. We must think of all the races. Only then can we be said to be fair."

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by MCA president Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik,

Gerakan president Dr Lim Keng Yaik and MIC president Datuk S. Samy Velu.

He said the Barisan felt it was its duty to support the Sarawak Barisan "because we want to ensure all the races are represented in the Government."

Later, at Sarikei, Dr Mahathir told a gathering that Malaysia did not have a history of violence amongst the races unlike other countries.

He attributed this to the Barisan's concept of power sharing among the different ethnic groups.

Tun Abdul Rahman was not at Matu Daro to meet Dr Mahathir. Dr Mahathir's speech was broadcast live on Radio Sarawak.